To know if a previously sealed concrete floor is clean and porous enough for thinset mortar, perform the **water drop test**. Pour a quarter-sized drop of clean water onto the bare concrete. If the water darkens the concrete and absorbs within 1 to 5 minutes, the sealer is gone and the surface is ready. If it beads up or fails to absorb, sealer remains and thinset will not bond. YouTube · NORKAN Inc. +1

The Water Drop Test Standards

- **Ready:** Water absorbs rapidly, changes the concrete color to a dark wet spot within a few minutes.
- **Not Ready:** Water beads, rolls, or sits on the surface like on a waxed car for more than 5 minutes without soaking in.
- **Action if Failed:** If any beading occurs, you must chemically strip, mechanically grind, or scarify the concrete to expose bare, porous concrete. W. R. Meadows +2

Cleanliness Checklist

- **Dust Free:** Fine concrete dust blocks suction just like a sealer; wipe the floor with a damp sponge or vacuum thoroughly.
- **Contaminant Free:** Oil, grease, paint, or old adhesive residue must be completely ground off.
- **No Acid Residue:** If you used an acid cleaner or etcher, rinse and neutralize the slab completely, as leftover acid destroys the chemical bond of the mortar. YouTube · Ask the Builder +3